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Agenda item 6

REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTER: LAND, DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Overall considerations

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development notes that chapter 10 of Agenda 21, on an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources, 1/ provides an overall framework for the implementation of the entire cluster. While all the chapters are related to land, those on forests and sustainable agriculture are concerned with the sustainable management and use of physical and biological resources, while those on desertification and sustainable mountain development reflect the particular problems of fragile environments; the issue of the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components is of a cross-cutting nature, and includes those concerned with coastal and marine ecosystems. Farmers - men and women - indigenous people, other rural communities and the private sector, as the major stakeholders in the use of land and its related resources, must be the focal points in all the areas of the cluster.

2. Respect for national sovereignty, as well as the need for a comprehensive approach to implementing the recommendations and commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 2/ and the

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Ibid., annex I.

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Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, 3/ are fundamental for achieving sustainable development.

3. National efforts in developing countries to mobilize financial resources for the full and effective implementation of Agenda 21, including its land-related chapters under review, have to be supported by the international community. It is imperative that all financial recommendations and commitments of Agenda 21 be implemented, including those related to the provision to the developing countries of adequate and predictable, new and additional financial resources from all sources. The need for partnership for sustainable development among all countries and better cooperation and coordination among national institutions, international organizations, including international financial institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, including farmers' and rural people's organizations, was underscored.

4. The sharing of scientific knowledge and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, including on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 34, are crucial instruments for achieving the objectives of Agenda 21.

5. The Commission on Sustainable Development recommends that high priority be given to the facilitation of practical action for the transfer, sharing, adaptation and development of technology for sustainable resource management in all sectors, at the national and international levels, including under the auspices of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and of international conventions, as appropriate. Such action should include support for a wide range of initiatives, including: (a) capacity and institution building; (b) exchange of information, making use, inter alia, of inventories on eco-technologies in those sectors; and (c) education and training - through the establishment of mechanisms such as environmental technology centres.

6. The Commission on Sustainable Development urges States to sign, ratify, accede to and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, 4/ the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 5/ and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 6/ making these Conventions the principal instruments for advancing international cooperation and practical action in their respective fields. The Commission stresses the

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3/ Ibid., annex III.

4/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

5/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

6/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

need for the formulation of coordinated approaches towards the implementation of these instruments at the national and international levels, with a view to making efficient use of resources. The Commission further agrees to look into the relationship between work under these Conventions and ongoing work on sustainable development in other related processes in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/111 on the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session, the Commission encourages Governments to continue to share their experiences in the implementation of Agenda 21, taking into account recent efforts and initiatives to promote sustainable development at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels. It welcomes the readiness of some countries to accomplish specific sustainable development goals by means of closer regional cooperation to facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, and recognizes the importance of regional approaches for the effective implementation of the Conference agreements to support global and national efforts. The Commission calls upon the regional commissions of the United Nations to increase their efforts in support of recent national, subregional, regional and interregional initiatives for promoting sustainable development. It also recognizes the need to strengthen its ties with regional institutions and in particular with the regional commissions. The Commission will continue to review and monitor these regional initiatives aimed at making the transition to sustainable development more effective in all countries and which support appropriate global and national efforts.

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTER: LAND, DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources

1. The Commission notes with great concern that an estimated one sixth of the total arable land surface of the globe has been damaged by human-induced soil degradation. A global partnership is required to protect and restore the health of the Earth's terrestrial ecosystems.

2. The Commission notes with concern the convergence of poverty, hunger and the degradation of terrestrial resources in environmentally more fragile marginal lands, where the large majority of poor smallholder farmers are increasingly located. The Commission calls upon Governments, bilateral donors, multilateral financial institutions, technical specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations to give a high priority to rural development in such lower-potential areas, particularly by enhancing the productivity of farmers on a sustainable basis.

3. The Commission stresses that an integrated approach to the planning and management of land and water resources is central to the implementation of Agenda 21 recommendations concerning land, desertification, mountains, forests and biodiversity. Land needs to be considered as a finite resource relative to many and varied needs; its allocation must aim to satisfy these needs in the most equitable and sustainable way.

4. An integrated and multidisciplinary approach to the planning, development and management of land resources is a process that methodically identifies human and environmental needs; identifies the potential and options for change and

improvement; identifies and evaluates all relevant physical, social, economic and policy factors; and develops a series of actions necessary to permit and facilitate change. The process needs to address an array of cross-sectoral issues, such as the creation of productive employment; the eradication of poverty; responses to pressures on the land caused by poverty; unsustainable consumption and production; population growth; and changing demographic patterns. The clarification and security of land rights, possibly involving land-tenure and ownership reforms, are central to the solution of such problems. A holistic approach to the management of land resources requires the integration of land and water-resource issues as they relate to land use. The mismanagement of land and water often leads to land degradation in the form of erosion, flooding, waterlogging and salinity, and the depletion of groundwater resources. The demands of rural and urban communities for land and its associated water resources will often conflict with each other if they are not properly managed.

5. The Commission notes that soil and water degradation due to contamination by agricultural, urban and industrial effluents is of increasing importance in both developed and developing countries; the Commission invites Governments, international organizations and groups to increase their efforts in this field.

6. A people-oriented approach that is adapted to suit local circumstances is central to the sustainable development of land resources. All stakeholders, especially women, farmers, indigenous peoples, landless labourers and other major groups, should participate in the planning and management of land resources, in identifying problems and in proposing solutions and should also participate in the consensus-building process. For that process, the intermediate level is important: Governments should encourage the participation of all stakeholders at that level. The empowerment of people and communities, the creation of social equity and an enabling environment, and the strengthening of capacities and building of awareness at all levels are all important elements in this multi-stakeholder approach. Security of tenure and the existence of equitable and efficient legal and fiscal systems are important management tools for ensuring increased productivity and securing conservation efforts.

7. The Commission notes with appreciation the outcome of the international workshop on Agenda 21, chapter 10, "Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources", which was organized by the Government of the Netherlands and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the Government of the Netherlands (Wageningen, 20-22 February 1995). The Commission invites the Government of the Netherlands and FAO to disseminate the report and recommendations of the workshop as widely as possible.

8. The Commission stresses the importance of the collecting, processing and disseminating of timely and reliable information, as well as the importance of utilizing modern land-assessment and evaluation technologies, together with technologies for resource characterization, all of which are essential for the planning and management of land resources. The development and use of appropriate indicators, including performance indicators, on the basis of sound scientific knowledge that is tailored to meet local requirements and circumstances, is essential for formulating and implementing policies and monitoring results. There is a need to ensure that technical information is

fully linked with social and economic information at the local, regional and national levels. The Commission also takes note with appreciation of the report of the Panel on Science and Technology for Integrated Land Management of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development; the report adds an important dimension in furthering the implementation of chapter 10.

9. The Commission notes with concern the uneven pace of progress achieved in implementing the objectives and recommendations contained in chapter 10 of Agenda 21, especially with regard to existing institutional structures, which are largely sector-oriented, thus leading to an overlapping of governmental responsibilities; the Commission also notes the need for community-driven approaches.

10. The Commission urges Governments to take all necessary steps to achieve the objectives set out in chapter 10 within the agreed time-frame. At the international level, priority should be given to the development of a holistic and integrated framework for establishing social and economic conditions that will facilitate sustainable production and the conservation of biodiversity. Technical and infrastructural support, which can be applied in any country with appropriate modifications to take account of local needs and conditions, will be desirable in many cases. [To this end, the Commission stresses the need to ensure predictable means and additional flows of financial resources to developing countries, as well as the need to ensure the appropriate transfer of environmentally sound technologies.]

11. The Commission urges Governments, in keeping with their respective needs and priorities, to develop national and/or local land-use planning systems that contain a statement of objectives and a detailed timetable for implementation spread over a period of years. Such systems should aim to remove constraints and provide incentives, thus enhancing the involvement and empowerment of peoples; should develop information and management systems; and should modify institutions, establishing suitable linkages among them. The Commission also urges Governments to exchange views on their programmes for integrated land management, involving all sectors of the community and all stakeholder groups, developed and implemented at the appropriate level.

12. The Commission requests the Secretary-General to strengthen coordination and cooperation among the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system by developing and implementing joint approaches and collaborative programmes. FAO, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), other international agencies and Governments, and with the appropriate contributions of non-governmental organizations, should develop tools and recommend actions for integrated land management. Such action should involve the Commission in its capacity as a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in an open and transparent manner, with the full and effective participation of developing countries in a way that reflects their specific conditions and needs.

13. The Commission urges Governments, with the cooperation and support of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to pay particular attention to:

(a) Establishing stable land-use systems in areas where important ecosystems or eco-regions are being endangered by human activities;

(b) Applying integrated planning and development approaches in regions that are becoming open to intensified settlement and agricultural production;

(c) Resolving the land and water-use conflicts that arise [between cities and their surrounding rural communities] or [both within rural areas and between cities and their surrounding areas] on such issues as fresh-water use, the treatment and reuse of solid and liquid waste, [appropriate housing,] and transport and other facilities, as well as food production, including through irrigation;

(d) Bringing about integrated approaches to capacity-building;

[(e) Providing both environmentally sound technologies and new and additional financial resources to developing countries for the effective implementation of chapter 10 of Agenda 21].

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTER: LAND, DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought

1. The Commission notes that some 1 billion people live in the rural areas of the world's drylands, which constitute one third of the land on Earth. They are at risk, and more than 100 million are already significantly affected and face having to abandon their lands and migrate. The Commission is concerned that, according to the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1995/4), the economic loss caused by desertification worldwide, in terms of average income foregone, was estimated in 1991 to be more than US$ 42 billion per year, most of it in Asia (US$ 20.9 billion per year) and Africa (US$ 9.3 billion per year). These figures are all the more alarming in Africa, where the affected countries rank among the poorest and least developed in the world.

2. Desertification and drought are closely interlinked with other issues such as loss of biodiversity, food security, population growth, poverty, climate change, water resources, deforestation, resource consumption patterns, deterioration of terms of trade, economics and, especially, social and cultural issues. Desertification is a social and economic, as well as an environmental problem. Drought and land degradation can occur in most climatic zones, affecting a large number of people. The Commission emphasizes the need to take action on the effects of drought and to recognize that land degradation also occurs in sub-humid and humid regions. Within the context of food security, combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought take on particular significance.

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3. The Commission welcomes the timely conclusion of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 1/ urges all Governments to recognize the urgent need for its early signature, ratification and entry into force, and to support the resolution on urgent action for Africa, 2/ adopted by the General Assembly, as well as to promote actions in other regions. Implementation of the programme areas of Agenda 21 3/ should be carried out in the context of the Convention, including its regional annexes. The Commission urges Governments and intergovernmental organizations to give strong political support to the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, to be held once the Convention has been ratified by at least 50 countries, and to support fully the work of the interim secretariat in preparing for the first meeting of the Conference of Parties.

4. The Commission underlines the importance of the following features of the Convention:

(a) The open, participatory approach, based on active work at the local level and the particularly important contribution of women;

(b) The need for improved donor coordination and the establishment of partnerships between Governments in donor and affected countries, and the active involvement of non-governmental organizations;

(c) The integrated, that is, global and multidisciplinary, approach, emphasizing the importance of the links between land and water management; and the role of energy, in particular new and renewable sources of energy, as well as the role of socio-economic factors and the need to combat poverty;

(d) The need for an active role of science in improving the situation in the drylands, and in humid and sub-humid areas.

5. The Commission urges Governments to take an integrated approach to combating desertification, taking into account the link between desertification and poverty and the need for low-cost [but cost-efficient] environmentally sound technologies for sustainable development. Sectoral strategic framework plans need to be consolidated within overall national planning and budgeting frameworks. The Commission draws the attention of Governments to the potential for the Convention to provide an in-country coordinating mechanism for integrated land management in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid lands.

1/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

2/ Ibid., appendix III, resolution 5/1.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

6. In order to be fully effective, the Convention needs to be better known. The Commission therefore emphasizes that, despite the increased understanding of desertification and drought issues, there is a continuing need to raise public awareness of the issues. The Commission urges Governments to enhance awareness among policy makers and the public at large through national institutions in the framework of the Convention, and of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and through the observance of the International Day for Combating Desertification, on 17 June of every year.

7. The Commission stresses the need for the mobilization of financial resources, inter alia, as called for by the relevant provisions of the Convention (articles 6, 20 and 21) and needed for its implementation, particularly in Africa. The Commission recommends that appropriate organizations of the United Nations system take steps to facilitate the financing of programmes and projects in dry and sub-humid areas. The Commission urges developed countries to agree on coherent policies and adequate resource allocations for fulfilling their commitments towards the implementation of the Convention.

8. The Commission notes that the wealth of information, knowledge and experience concerning the causes and effects of desertification and drought that are already available allow for action to be stepped up immediately. Measures that assist information-sharing (e.g., workshops) should be encouraged. The Commission also considers that the need for substantial improvement and better use of existing scientific knowledge of the problem is fundamental to further improving understanding of the significance of desertification and drought. Meeting this need would involve improved monitoring to provide data collection for desertification assessment and early warning of drought, as well as the improvement of capacities to facilitate access to and application of this information by land users. A more precise understanding of the desertification issue would involve concerted activities, including consultations with major groups, at the national level in affected countries, and the recognition by Governments of its importance, that is, a cross-sectoral effort involving physical, social, humanitarian and economic factors.

9. The Commission recognizes that the strengthening of national capacities is central to combating desertification and drought. The Commission urges affected countries, regional and subregional organizations:

(a) To take effective action to set up institutional arrangements and policy frameworks for developing, managing and implementing national strategies and action programmes, incorporating provision for active public participation, especially among those most affected;

(b) To encourage Governments to improve national coordination among agencies in order to implement measures for combating desertification and managing drought more effectively and for the sustainable use of natural resources, given the cross-cutting nature of these issues;

(c) To establish, as a matter of highest priority, coordinating arrangements and to create partnerships with donors and national stakeholders, within the context of the Convention.

10. The Commission recognizes the importance of preserving the knowledge of farmers and indigenous and local people concerning dryland management and survival strategies. Their full involvement in the sustainable development of these drylands - their homelands - needs to be ensured. In this regard, the Commission notes with satisfaction that the principle of allowing more effective participation of local people, especially farmers, through their representative organizations in the planning and development of their natural resources is being more willingly accepted in many affected countries. It also takes note of the fact that many organizations, especially non-governmental organizations, have stepped up their participatory approaches with the inclusion of marginalized and disadvantaged groups, especially women, in the dryland development process.

11. The Commission takes note of the statement in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1995/4) to the effect that United Nations organizations have already taken steps to align their drought and desertification activities in accordance with Agenda 21. Further agreements on the system-wide division of labour and proposals on further partnership arrangements between agencies (and corresponding targeted work plans) are needed. The Commission recommends that these organizations further define their roles, comparative advantages, cooperative mechanisms, level of intervention and corresponding resource allocations in the implementation of the Convention.

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REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTER: LAND, DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Sustainable mountain development

1. The Commission recognizes that mountain ecosystems and environments are of crucial importance as rich and unique centres of biological and cultural diversity, water stores and sources of minerals. Mountains cover at least one fifth of the Earth's landscape and are home to at least 10 per cent of the world's population, predominantly economically poor people. Mountain ecosystems are complex, fragile, unique in geomorphology, and react sensitively to global climate change. There is a corresponding need for a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to sustainable mountain development as well as for the effective participation and empowerment of mountain people in the use and conservation of mountain resources.

2. The Commission recognizes that with increased accessibility into mountain areas, resource degradation and, in some cases, economic and political marginalization of mountain communities has taken place. In order to reverse this trend and to [eradicate] [reduce] the poverty of mountain people, strategies for mountain development must empower mountain communities to exercise larger control over local resource management and conservation and generate income in sustainable and equitable ways. In this context, the Commission recognizes the central role of women in the sustainable use and management of resources; therefore, the specific needs and constraints of women must be acknowledged and addressed. Furthermore, support is needed to recover and foster the cultural expressions of mountain populations because mountain cultural diversity is a strong and valid basis for the sustainable use and conservation of mountain resources; in this context, the protection of indigenous people's [rights] [interests], including the recognition of their knowledge, should be an integral part of sustainable development.

3. The Commission stresses that the fragility of mountain ecosystems and the adverse impact of the degradation of those systems on highland and lowland populations have not been fully appreciated. The Commission recognizes the importance of mountains as the predominant and most dependable source of freshwater currently used by humanity, and therefore stresses the importance of providing adequate protection for both quality and quantity of water resources from mountainous regions. The Commission recognizes the vital protective function of a stable forest cover for the safeguarding of mountainous settlements and infrastructure. It also urges expanding the network of protected mountain areas to cover all types of mountain ecosystems, strengthening existing management capabilities for conserving mountain ecosystems, species and genetic diversity and promoting local and non-governmental organizations' participation in the management of these areas.

4. In order to ensure an integrated approach to the complexity of mountain ecosystems and the socio-economic issues at stake, the Commission recognizes the need for strengthening the existing institutional mechanisms as well as the knowledge base about mountain ecosystems through research, database development, pilot projects and information exchange, along with support for training in-country of scientific and technical experts and local natural resource managers.

5. The Commission urges interested Governments, with the support of the international community, to prepare and implement comprehensive national and/or local mountain development programmes in relevant countries as outlined in chapter 13 of Agenda 21: 1/ the "mountain agenda". These include strengthening national capacity for sustainable mountain development and the preparation of long-term mountain action plans. Action-oriented projects and programmes should emphasize the long-term monitoring of their environmental, economic and social impacts. Initiatives to implement the "mountain agenda" should incorporate development strategies that address the impacts on mountain communities and ecosystems of, inter alia, production and land-use systems, tourism, transportation policies and energy production and use. These initiatives must incorporate a participatory approach involving all stakeholders, including farmers, women, local and indigenous communities, as well as non-governmental organizations.

6. [In order to facilitate the prompt implementation of these activities, the Commission urges that new and additional financial resources and technical cooperation, including the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, be provided.]

7. The Commission also recognizes that there is a need to take a new look at the overall flow and full-cost pricing of resources and services to and from mountain areas, including water, wood and non-wood as well as range products, energy, mineral resources, tourism and human and government services. The Commission further recognizes the need for a fair share of the benefits derived from the use of mountain resources to remain with the local people and their communities.

8. The Commission notes that there is a need to examine the relationship of chapter 13 with other chapters of Agenda 21 and with the global conventions and

to analyse the extent to which the concerns of mountain areas can be better integrated in their follow-up.

9. The Commission welcomes and supports ongoing efforts in preparing and negotiating subregional and interregional agreements on mountains and, in this context, notes the entry into force of the Alpine Convention as one example, in line with paragraph 13.8 (c) of Agenda 21, of cooperation between countries for the protection of mountain ecosystems.

10. The Commission calls upon Governments and the international community to take action at all levels with the objective of [eradicating] [reducing] poverty in mountain areas, diversifying mountain economies, protecting the environment and food security of local communities, strengthening global information networks and databases, addressing environmental problems, and creating new livelihood opportunities, in the context of appropriate institutional frameworks.

11. The Commission urges interested Governments and organizations, including the private sector, to promote initiatives aimed at raising awareness, including the convening of regional intergovernmental consultations. A wider international meeting involving relevant United Nations bodies could facilitate the exchange of objectives, results and experiences of sustainable development in different mountain regions.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building (E/CN.17/1995/17) and the compilation of information on policies and programmes of countries, international organizations and financial institutions to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building;

(b) Welcomed the elements of a work programme contained in section V of the report, and noted that the report made full use of the intersessional meetings on issues related to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, including the Workshop on the Access to and Dissemination of Information on Environmentally Sound Technologies, organized by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Third High-level Advisory Seminar on Cleaner Production, organized by the Government of Poland, the Workshop on Cleaner Production Technologies in Developing Countries, organized by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Round Table on Technology Transfer, Cooperation and Capacity-building, organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat;

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(c) Further took note of the gradual shift of focus from pollution control and waste management to pollution prevention approaches in policies and programmes at the country level and bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and observed that this shift has resulted in the introduction of production patterns that emphasize the more efficient use of raw materials and energy, taking into account the capture and recycling of wastes and the better use of end-products of the productive system;

(d) Reaffirmed the importance of the balanced approach of chapter 34 of Agenda 21 concerning the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, also further reaffirmed the necessity of access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the specific needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21, through supportive measures that promote technology cooperation and that should enable the transfer of necessary technological know-how as well as the building of economic, technical and managerial capabilities for the efficient use and further development of technology, and further reaffirmed the need to strengthen North-South and South-South cooperation to implement the provisions of chapter 34 of Agenda 21;

(e) Recognized that international cooperation is essential to promote access to and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies and that an adequate approach to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies should not only consider existing market forces, but also other relevant factors such as social, cultural, environmental and economic factors, and also recognized that commercial transactions are an important source of technology cooperation with regard to environmentally sound technologies, and that such transactions should be encouraged;

(f) Further recognized that much of Agenda 21 needs to be implemented at the national level. To accomplish this task, Governments will have to face new challenges in order to meet the requirements of sustainable development. This process should be enhanced through the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 34.14 (b) of Agenda 21, to implement the objectives of sustainable development. Such technologies should be demand driven, environmentally sound and appropriate for the intended users of the technology, taking into account the social, economic and cultural conditions in the country concerned, in accordance with its priorities;

(g) Recalled that the promotion, facilitation and financing, as appropriate, of access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, is one of the means for the implementation of Agenda 21;

(h) Recalled that the private sector is an important vehicle for technology transfer and that Governments should provide an enabling and supportive environment;

(i) Highlighted the need to develop a programme of work on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, with the objective of reporting on its implementation by 1997. Consistent with the decision on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, adopted by the Commission at its second session, 1/ the specific activities contained in the programme of work would relate to three interlinked priority areas.

2. The Commission, therefore:

Urges Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, the secretariats of the various international conventions, and major groups, particularly business and industry, to make clear commitments to undertake specific elements of the following work programme:

Work programme

A. Access to and dissemination of information on environmentally sound technologies

(1) The Commission welcomes the work being initiated by the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and relevant organizations, on a survey of existing information systems and sources related to environmentally sound technologies as a practical step to enhance cooperation and compatibility between existing and projected information systems and clearinghouse mechanisms. In this regard, the Commission invites the United Nations Environment Programme to submit an interim report to it at its fourth session, in 1996, which should also take into account other work now under way such as the inventory on climate-related technologies to be prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This report should:

(a) Include systems and sources from developed and developing countries;

(b) Analyse information and identify deficiencies, gaps and duplications;

(c) Evaluate systems with respect to information quality, accessibility and costs;

(d) Explore the idea of a broadly based consultative mechanism that would facilitate consultation among information providers and potential users.

1/ See E/1994/33, chap. I, sect. C.

(2) The Commission urges that information and experiences be shared on the successful implementation of transfer operations of environmentally sound technologies through, for example, workshops or expert panels, the dissemination of well-documented case-studies, and networking activities, and that the results be made available to the Commission.

(3) The Commission also urges that information and experiences be shared on the impact and effectiveness of governmental, public and private sector initiatives and policies, including voluntary agreements and initiatives, economic instruments and other policies on the development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies. Examples include country or sector-specific workshops or expert panels and the dissemination of well-documented case-studies, the results of which would be made available to the Commission. Such workshops or panels could include representations from Governments, international bodies, industry and other major groups.

B. Institutional development and capacity-building for managing technological change

(4) Effective measures need to be implemented at the national level to develop the skills, in particular of developing countries, to access, assess, adapt and apply environmentally sound technologies in specific contexts and to enhance the innovative capabilities of the technology users. In this regard, Governments, international organizations and major groups, including business and industry, should undertake:

(a) Efforts to establish or strengthen environmentally sound technology centres, networks or other mechanisms, and in particular to support the establishment or strengthening of such centres, networks or other mechanisms in developing countries. Functions to be performed by the environmentally sound technology centres should take into account specifications such as those contained in the Seoul Plan of Action concerning Information Exchange about Environmentally Sound Technologies and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Round Table on Technology Transfer, Cooperation and Capacity-building, giving priority attention to:

(i) Conducting, as appropriate, surveys and assessments of environmentally sound technologies;

(ii) Training of trainers and advisers;

(iii) Demonstration projects that highlight the economic and environmental benefits of the use of environmentally sound technologies and management skills;

(iv) Awareness building, inter alia, through dissemination of well-documented case-studies that clearly present those economic benefits;

(v) Capacity-building for technology assessment.

The promotion of environmentally sound technology centres, or their equivalent networks, should build upon existing national institutions and organizations, including research centres, for example, centres established with the support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme or bilateral donors. The environmentally sound technology centres could also facilitate technology transfer involving the private sector;

(b) Cooperation in the development of basic criteria or general guidelines for environmentally sound technology assessment, building upon already existing work. These criteria or guidelines should emphasize the transfer of cleaner technologies;

(c) Sharing of experiences in case-studies on national needs assessments in support of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies as well as the implementation of their results, through, for example, expert meetings. There is also a need for exchanging such experiences gained in current cooperation projects, in order to compare approaches and identify their respective strengths and weaknesses. The results should be made available to the Commission to enable it to keep this issue under review;

(d) Encouraging joint ventures and partnerships of the private sector from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises. Bilateral technology partnership arrangements could be used as a means of encouraging private sector initiatives in disseminating state-of-the-art technologies and enhancing technology development, innovation and capacity-building;

(e) Developing environmental performance indicators at the national level, taking into account international work on indicators and criteria, which may be used in assessing technology options;

(f) Developing measures for strengthening the "technology triangle" that involve the participation of scientific, private and government sectors at the national level.

C. Financial and partnership arrangements

(5) Urgent and concrete steps are needed to encourage [new and additional financial resources] [the flow of financial resources from all sources] from developed to developing countries in particular, and to promote partnership arrangements between technology suppliers and potential users. In this regard:

(a) Governments are encouraged to take appropriate measures to strengthen strategic interactions and collaboration and links between government agencies and institutions, the private sector and institutions of science and technology, at the national level, and to develop and utilize a similar approach at the international level;

(b) Governments of developed countries are encouraged to include environmentally sound technologies as an integral part of their technology cooperation and technical assistance programmes, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 34.14 (b) of Agenda 21, and to provide encouragement to the private sector, both local enterprises and transnational corporations, including financial and fiscal incentives, as appropriate, to promote and accelerate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular pollution prevention and control and waste management technologies, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(c) Governments are urged to take measures, in cooperation with international organizations, as appropriate, to enhance both North-South and South-South cooperation. Initiatives should also be targeted towards integrating the economies in transition into the system of global technology cooperation and partnership. In this regard, particularly relevant areas are:

(i) Joint technological research and development programmes targeted to the frontiers of technologies to accelerate technological change and facilitate technology "leapfrogging" in developing countries and economies in transition;

(ii) Cooperation between technological research and development institutions of developed and developing countries and economies in transition;

(iii) Cooperation among technological research and development institutions of developing countries;

(iv) Strengthening existing regional centres that play a role in the exchange of information about environmentally sound technologies and in capacity-building of developing countries and economies in transition for managing technological change;

(d) Governments, international organizations and the private sector could provide information on case-studies on experiences gained in the transfer and application of environmentally sound technologies in order to facilitate the replication of successful examples. Note should be taken of the useful experiences of environmentally sound technology projects funded through both the Global Environment Facility and the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol. The Commission encourages the sharing of these and similar experiences at meetings relevant to its work;

(e) Governments are invited to create enabling conditions in order to increase the amount of foreign direct investment in environmentally sound

technologies through measures such as creating a demand for environmentally sound technologies through market mechanisms and the examination of the framework of laws and regulatory policies that affect technology cooperation;

(f) Existing global and regional funds are urged to allocate resources to build and strengthen in-country capacity to identify projects tailored to specific countries' needs and to carry out in-country pre-feasibility studies with a view to further attracting funding for technology transfer projects;

(g) The financial sector is encouraged to promote an assessment of the potential impact and benefits of the use and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

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Agenda item 5

EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Science for sustainable development

1. The Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on science for sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/16), including the initiatives taken by national Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations, major groups and the scientific and technological community to implement science-related policies and programmes.

2. The Commission welcomed the proposals for action contained in section III, which identified areas for priority actions that should be taken by countries and regional and international organizations, with a view to further enhancing the contribution of science to sustainable development, in particular in developing countries.

3. The Commission noted recent intergovernmental processes relevant to science for sustainable development, such as the establishment of the Commission on Science and Technology for the South (COMSATS), with its aim of creating 20 centres of excellence in the South as the frontier areas of science related to sustainable development and the related Network of International Centres of Excellence in the South.

4. The Commission also noted the meetings of the Presidential Forum on the Management of Science and Technology for Development in Africa which, inter alia, led to the inauguration of the African Foundation for Research and Development (AFRAND).

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5. The Commission highlighted the useful cooperation and collaboration with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development through its Panel on Science and Technology for Integrated Land Management, which provided an important input into the discussions of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues.

6. The Commission stressed the importance of North-South and South-South cooperation and partnerships as mechanisms to support initiatives in capacity-building for science at the country level.

7. The Commission stressed the interdisciplinary nature of science and the need for related initiatives and research to reflect the linkages between the economic, social and natural aspects of science.

8. The Commission recognized the importance of indigenous people's knowledge and that indigenous sciences, traditions and communities should be consulted to help solve sustainable development problems.

9. The Commission:

(a) Invites the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to fully explore the possibilities of intensified scientific cooperation as provided for in the Conventions;

(b) Urges countries and international organizations to accord high priority to measures aimed at capacity-building and sharing of know-how in science, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries. In this regard, Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations should:

(i) Share reliable and sector/country-specific information concerning scientific capacities and know-how and its impact on achieving sustainable development objectives in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and make this information available to the Commission, through, inter alia, well-documented case-studies;

(ii) Specify and implement activities, including through joint initiatives, cooperation and partnership arrangements, which are targeted towards enhancing the scientific capacities and capabilities of developing countries in the following priority areas: promoting general scientific education and sharing of know-how and training, particularly with regard to women; enhancing the status of science; enhancing the capabilities of decision makers to use existing scientific information in the development of sustainable development policies; improving the integration of science in national development policies and plans; promoting interdisciplinary approaches and use of new technologies; and increasing training in specialized scientific areas;

(iii) Take appropriate measures to ensure the flow of new and additional financial resources to developing countries;

OR

(iii) Take appropriate measures to encourage the flow of adequate financial and other resources from all available sources, in particular to developing countries, to support these efforts;

(c) Encourages Governments to enhance, with the support of intergovernmental and other relevant international organizations, international scientific cooperation, including North-South and South-South cooperation, taking into account current and planned efforts, for example, the initiatives of COMSATS and the Presidential Forum on the Management of Science and Technology for Development in Africa. In this regard, there is a need for:

(i) The networking of national and international centres of excellence which would build upon existing national and regional research, education and development institutions, organizations and programmes;

(ii) The enhanced participation of developing countries in international research programmes on global environmental issues, recognizing that in many scientific fields related to sustainable development, generation of new knowledge requires enhanced international scientific cooperation. Joint efforts could relate to:

a. Making full use and exploring the development of Global Environment Observing Systems;

b. Reinforcing and, where necessary, expanding existing international scientific programmes to ensure coordination and high-quality scientific results;

c. Identifying emerging issues for international scientific cooperation and addressing appropriate response strategies;

(d) Encourages initiatives at the country level to improve communication between science, industry, policy makers and major groups and to enhance the application of science. In this regard, Governments, the scientific and technological community, including universities, and the industrial sector should enhance cooperative efforts to ensure that the most recent and comprehensive scientific information is collected, synthesized and made available to interested groups. In addition, these groups should also cooperate to identify priority research needs in support of sustainable development;

(e) Invites the donor community to consider targeted financial support for the implementation of specific activities related to scientific capacity-building in the identified priority areas. In this regard, adequate funding is needed, inter alia, for:

(i) Promoting basic scientific education, enhancing interdisciplinarity between natural and social sciences, enhancing research on and

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development of new technologies and increasing training in specialized scientific areas, according to national priorities. Such efforts should also be part of relevant United Nations agency programmes and a goal of domestic education programmes in all countries;

(ii) Networking of national and international centres of excellence;

(iii) Implementing problem-oriented interdisciplinary research and demonstration projects, in particular in developing countries, in support of the development of sector-specific sustainable resource management policies.

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GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Information for decision-making

1. The Commission, having examined the report of the Secretary-General on information for decision-making and Earthwatch (E/CN.17/1995/18), noted and welcomed the important measures taken by Governments to make information more accessible to decision makers at the national level, and calls upon national Governments to utilize this information for sustainable development at the country level. The aim of such measures includes the development of a comprehensive and coherent information programme, drawing upon public participation in data collection and assessment. In this context, developed countries are urged to utilize both bilateral and multilateral channels to facilitate access by developing countries, and countries whose economies are in transition, to sources of information relative to sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Networking Programme of the United Nations Development Programme is one model for such initiatives.

2. The Commission calls attention to the feasibility study undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme to provide access to information on sustainable development to 35 small island developing States, 1/ which was conducted in keeping with General Assembly resolution 49/122 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

1/ A/49/414, annex.

3. The Commission expresses its appreciation to the organizers of the six workshops that furthered understanding of the issues addressed in chapter 40 of Agenda 21, particularly the efforts related to developing a work programme on indicators of sustainable development, and it supports and encourages further work in this area as elaborated in paragraphs 7 and 8 below.

4. The Commission welcomes the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the process of generating information for decision-making, including the articulation of views from local and grass-roots levels and from major groups, and expresses its desire that these activities continue and be integrated, to the extent possible, with those of national Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations.

5. The Commission expresses appreciation for the extensive international collaboration in the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch and its responsiveness to the priorities of Agenda 21 and to user needs. It urges Governments and major groups, as well as relevant international organizations and the scientific community, to participate actively in strengthening Earthwatch as an international partnership to ensure an adequate flow of information on the global and regional environment, to support decision-making and to give early warning on the state of the environment. Special attention is drawn to the need for improved delivery of information to decision makers and to increased participation in environmental observations at the local and national levels within regional and international frameworks. In this regard, the Commission welcomes all appropriate participation in the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Programme, as described in General Assembly resolution 49/112.

6. The Commission recalls that, in addition to Earthwatch, which is a global system for environmental information, Agenda 21, in paragraph 40.13, calls for the more effective coordination also of development data, "perhaps through an equivalent and complementary 'Development Watch'". In this context, the Commission noted the cooperative effort of the organizations of the United Nations system to prepare proposals for the creation of such a Development Watch. It requests the United Nations Development Programme, with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and in cooperation with the regional commissions and other interested organizations, to further define Development Watch and, in this regard, to submit a progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for Development Watch to the Commission at its session in 1997, taking into account the need for a close linkage between Development Watch and Earthwatch.

7. The Commission noted the importance of developing, among the organizations of the United Nations system, a common or compatible system of access to their respective databases, in order to share data fully, to streamline the collection and interpretation of data and to identify data gaps, for the purpose of providing more comprehensive and integrated data to decision makers at the national, regional and international levels. The Commission invites the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development to refine measures for establishing such a common or compatible system and to report thereon to the

Commission at its fourth session. The Commission notes also the rapidly growing number of information systems for sustainable development at the national and regional levels, and invites the Secretary-General to consider ways of enhancing compatibility among and access to these systems and to report his findings to the Commission at its session in 1997.

8. Governments are encouraged to develop or conduct studies on the development of indicators of sustainable development in accordance with specific national conditions. In this context, there is a need for coordination, especially through the Commission, of the many intergovernmental and scientific institutions working in this area, as well as a need for intensive international dialogue.

9. The Commission urges bodies such as the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat, the statistical services of Member States and other appropriate institutions, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Statistical Office of the European Communities and major groups to cooperate in the development of indicators of sustainable development. Furthermore, the Commission encourages the scientific community, including the project on indicators of sustainable development undertaken by the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, to focus its efforts on the development and improvement of such indicators.

10. The Commission reiterates the importance of developing indicators of sustainable development for use by decision makers at the local, regional and national levels and expresses its appreciation to the organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, and the Governments that have contributed to the process of defining a programme of work for the further development of indicators of sustainable development.

11. The Commission approves the programme of work contained in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1995/18) and calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system, with the support of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and through the coordination of the Department for Programme Coordination and Sustainable Development, to implement, within existing resources, the following, as outlined in the programme of work: (a) enhancement of information exchange among all interested actors; (b) development of methodology sheets to be made available to Governments; (c) training and capacity-building at the regional and national levels; (d) testing of an appropriate combination of indicators and monitoring of experiences in a few countries; (e) evaluation of the indicators, including those mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1995/18), and adjustment, as necessary; (f) identification and assessment of linkages between the economic, social, institutional and environmental elements of sustainable development; (g) development of highly aggregated indicators; and (h) further development of the conceptual framework for sustainable development indicators, involving experts from the areas of economics, social sciences and physical sciences and policy makers, as well as incorporating non-governmental organization and indigenous views. The Commission requests the secretariat to provide it with a progress report on the implementation of the programme of work at its fourth session, in 1996.

12. The Commission took note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-eighth session, 2/ and expresses its appreciation to the Statistical Commission for its offer to collaborate with and support the Commission in its work on indicators of sustainable development. In this context, the Commission also welcomes the action taken by the Statistical Commission with respect to the international compilation of environmental indicators from national statistical services and looks forward to the contribution of this work to the overall programme of work on indicators of sustainable development. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development should promote and assist these efforts.

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 8 (E/1995/28).

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GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Integrating environment and development in decision-making

1. The Commission, having examined the report of the Secretary-General on integrating environment and development in decision-making (E/CN.17/1995/19), noted the need for a framework at the national level for integrating economic, social and environmental issues and for bringing together sectoral plans in a more comprehensive manner. The Commission calls on Governments to continue their efforts to establish, where appropriate, national mechanisms and to develop integrated, participatory strategies for sustainable development.

2. The Commission welcomes paragraph 11 of the report and emphasizes the importance of the steps taken by the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development to assist Governments in the elaboration of national environmental and sustainable development strategies and plans and to develop frameworks in which sectoral plans can be accommodated. It urges all organizations of the United Nations system, in cooperation with Governments, to participate, as relevant, in the ongoing programme, and calls upon non-governmental organizations to contribute to this process to the fullest extent possible.

3. The Commission welcomes offers for hosting international conferences on promoting sustainable development in order to promote regional and multilateral cooperation on sustainable development. In this context, the Commission welcomes the convening of the Third Ministerial Conference, "Environment for Europe", to be held in Sofia in 1995. The Commission also welcomes the initiative of the Government of Belarus for the possible convening of an international conference of the countries with economies in transition on promoting sustainable development. The Commission encourages interested

Governments and relevant subregional, regional and other interested organizations to place, inter alia, the Pan-European Environment Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe within the broader framework of sustainable development, taking due account of the need for the full integration of countries in transition from centrally planned to market economies, as well as all other countries, into the world economy, which is essential to sustainable development.

4. The Commission requests the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to organize, within existing resources, regional workshops to explore, discuss and further develop methodological approaches to integration based upon, for example, work being done in environmental economics, valuation, natural resource accounting and integrated economic and environmental accounting.

5. The Commission underlines the importance of integrated environmental and economic accounting for sustainable development and encourages Governments to undertake further national activities in this area.

6. The Commission takes note of the work in integrated economic and environmental accounting being undertaken by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations and calls upon them, inter alia, to further this work, particularly with regard to promoting the implementation of national programmes and strengthening technical cooperation in this area.

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GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Major groups

1. The Commission noted that major group organizations were forging strong linkages between their activities and contributions to Agenda 21 and international conference processes and expressed its appreciation of the efforts of those organizations to maintain Agenda 21 as the umbrella framework for achieving sustainable development.

2. The Commission noted with appreciation the series of events highlighting the role of local authorities and the local Agenda 21 process, under the banner of "A Day of Local Authorities", during the current session, and requested that similar projects and activities highlighting the role of other major group sectors be carried out in future years. One such activity, for the fourth session, in 1996, could involve case-studies on partnerships in the work-place, involving two major group sectors: workers and trade unions and business and industry. It could also involve case-studies of successful environmental management/sustainable development policies of small and medium-sized enterprises. In that context, a programme of events focusing on the role and contribution of major groups could be organized on the margins of the fourth session. Governments, international organizations and private sources were invited to provide voluntary funding support for such special events.

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3. The Commission welcomed and encouraged the emerging practice of including representatives of major groups in national delegations to the Commission as an effective way of increasing the participation of such groups at the international level.

4. The Commission reiterated the importance of enabling and empowering partnerships between the governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental sectors in achieving the goals of Agenda 21. It emphasized national-level participation of major groups in the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 21 inter alia, through national coordinating mechanisms, including national councils on sustainable development or national networks of major groups, and recommended that such participation needed to be further encouraged, strengthened and expanded. The Commission:

(a) Noted with appreciation the efforts of those countries that had supported major group participation in the national coordinating mechanisms;

(b) Recommended that both the existing and to-be-established national coordination mechanisms should strive to achieve the representation of all relevant major group sectors in their composition;

(c) Recommended that in establishing these mechanisms, national and local major group organizations should choose their own representatives, in accordance with national consultative mechanisms;

(d) Recognized the importance of efforts to enable the participation of major groups at the international and regional levels.

5. The Commission recognized the efforts of Governments, United Nations organizations and major groups that had promoted major group involvement in inter-sessional meetings and other meetings relevant to the work of the Commission, and:

(a) Recommended that all concerned continue to involve major groups in inter-sessional events and other relevant meetings, particularly with the aim of enabling a multiplier effect in terms of the diversity of major group sectors and organizations invited;

(b) Encouraged partnerships between Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the major groups in jointly organizing future inter-sessional activities and other relevant meetings.

6. The Commission recognized the desirability of increased funding to undertake efforts that increased major group participation in the Commission's sessions, its inter-sessional activities and other meetings relevant to the follow-up of Agenda 21. This would be particularly desirable in the case of major group organizations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Commission urged interested institutions to explore the possibility of creating suitable arrangements to that end.

7. The Commission emphasized the importance of regular information exchange. Electronic networks were pointed out as an effective and efficient mode of channelling information between major groups and intergovernmental and governmental organizations. The Commission requested Governments and international organizations, in collaboration with such major groups as business and industry and the academic communities to explore ways of increasing the availability of and access to such electronic systems, especially in developing countries, and urged all countries to seek and enable appropriate public-private partnerships.

8. The Commission, having noted the important contribution of major groups to its work, recommended that the overall access of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, to the work of the Commission throughout the year be defined. Without prejudice to the outcome of the general review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations to be carried out by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission recommended that:

(a) In reviewing the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, the Economic and Social Council ensure that major groups, including non-governmental organizations, relevant to the work of the Commission are given the opportunity to participate in the Commission's work;

(b) The implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1994/300 concerning paragraph 24 of the report of the Commission on its second session (E/1994/33/Rev.1) not result in the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission being interrupted. To this end, Roster status should be continued through the completion of any processes resulting from the Economic and Social Council review.

9. The Commission, while noting the increase in the quantity and quality of inputs from major groups, felt that there was a need to ensure that the information submitted by major group organizations for the Commission's reporting process was fully utilized in the analyses under the various sectoral and cross-sectoral reports. The Commission requested the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development to elaborate on that issue to achieve the best and coordinated use of major group submissions and submit the results to the Commission at its fourth session.

10. The Commission reaffirmed that recognizing and strengthening the role of major groups at the national and local levels was important for their effective participation in the process of sustainable development. It requested the Secretary-General to include information and developments in that area in his report on major groups to be submitted to the Commission at its fourth session.

11. The Commission stressed the particular role of youth groups in the context of sustainable development: the young were those who would suffer if long-tern development was not sustainable; their enthusiasm and sense of commitment were necessary elements in all strategies for sustainable development.

12. In view of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Beijing in September 1995, the Commission stressed the central role played by women in creating appropriate conditions for sustainable development and invited the Conference to fully include the need for sustainable development in its deliberations.

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FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Financial resources and mechanisms

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development recalls the financial recommendations and commitments set out in chapter 33 of Agenda 21, especially those in paragraphs 33.13 and 33.14 thereof.

2. The Commission emphasizes that, in general, the financing for the implementation of Agenda 21 will come from a country's own public and private sectors. For developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, official development assistance (ODA) is a main source of external funding; substantial new and additional funding for sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21 will be required. Furthermore, ODA plays a significant role in addressing sustainable development concerns in those areas of the world, as well as in addressing social and environmental concerns and meeting the needs of certain infrastructural sectors which currently are not favourably placed to attract private financial flows, including foreign direct investment. The decline of ODA, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of gross national product (GNP), remains a matter of great concern to the Commission.

3. The Commission urges the developed countries to continue pursuing policies aimed at increasing the flow of ODA to developing countries, consistent with the commitments they made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

4. The Commission, in its work on monitoring the implementation of recommendations and commitments of Agenda 21 related to ODA, will promote:

(a) New approaches to enhancing the effectiveness of ODA and increasing it within relevant bilateral and multilateral mechanisms with the objective of achieving the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, as reaffirmed in chapter 33.13 of Agenda 21, as soon as possible;

(b) Improved cooperation and coordination among national institutions in recipient and donor countries, international organizations (including financial institutions) and the private sector and the non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, inter alia, through the elaboration of national sustainable development strategies and plans, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of ODA delivery and use;

(c) The use of ODA to leverage additional domestic and external financial resources, through various innovative schemes (such as co-financing and joint ventures, underwriting country risks, and venture capital funds) in order to more efficiently mobilize new financial flows for sustainable development from all potential sources. In this context, the Commission could initiate case studies of national experiences in this area;

(d) Public and political support in donor countries for raising the levels of ODA, including through highlighting its crucial role for sustainable development and reform measures, as appropriate, in recipient countries that increase its effectiveness;

(e) International awareness of the importance of an adequate eleventh replenishment of the International Development Association, which is to come into effect from June 1996.

5. The Commission welcomes the increase in private capital flows, while recognizing that they are concentrated in a few countries and sectors. However, the fact that their stability and sustainability and their environment and technology transfer content are not assured remains a cause for concern for the Commission and require monitoring. Therefore, the Commission invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the international financial institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, to carry out further studies in this regard, focusing on the high volatility and short-term nature of a substantial part of such flows and proposing measures to stimulate more long-term capital flows and to reduce the destabilizing effects of highly volatile short-term financial flows, and to share the results with the Commission.

6. The Commission emphasizes that developed and developing countries should encourage policies to promote private foreign investment in developing countries that can contribute to sustainable development. In addition, consideration should be given to the establishment of mechanisms and international arrangements to address the effects of sudden outflows of private capital from developing countries.

7. The Commission reiterates the fact that further progress is essential for the achievement of an effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solution to the external debt problems of a large number of developing countries, particularly the poorest and most heavily indebted among them. The

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development of the World Summit for Social Development suggests even more favourable terms of debt relief measures. It highlights the importance of ensuring the urgent implementation of existing debt relief agreements and negotiating further initiatives, in addition to existing ones, to alleviate the debt of the poorest and heavily indebted low-income countries at an early date, especially through more favourable terms of debt forgiveness, including application of the terms of debt forgiveness agreed upon in the Paris Club in December 1994, which encompass debt reduction, including cancellation or other debt relief measures; where appropriate, these countries should be given a reduction, of their bilateral official debt sufficient to enable them to exit from the rescheduling process and resume growth and development.

8. The Commission further emphasizes that measures to tackle the problem of external debt should also include the consideration and implementation, where appropriate, of innovative mechanisms such as debt-for-nature and debt-for-social-development swaps. The Commission takes note of successful examples of debt-for-sustainable-development swaps and recommends their further promotion, as appropriate.

9. The Commission urges international financial institutions and all relevant development agencies to continue to increase financial flows for sustainable development. Specifically, these institutions should extend their recent efforts beyond incorporating environmental and social considerations in their projects and activities by integrating economic, social and environmental goals of sustainability from the outset into their institutional mandate, overall development policies, strategy formulation, and priorities established by Agenda 21 and other related international instruments and agreements.

10. The Commission notes the importance of the further development of sustainable development indicators and their possible application, once agreed, which aim at integrating economic, social and environmental goals. The further development of sustainable development indicators should be undertaken in particular developing countries, with the effective participation of all relevant parties.

11. The Commission and the policy-making bodies of the international financial institutions (in particular the Interim and Development Committees) should strengthen communication, interaction and partnership with a view to promoting approaches and activities geared towards meeting the objectives of sustainable development under Agenda 21.

12. The Commission notes that the restructured and replenished Global Environment Facility (GEF) will continue on an interim basis as the entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanisms of the Convention on Biodiversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Commission emphasizes the importance of the speedy implementation of these commitments and the other responsibilities of GEF and recalls that, at its third session, in 1994, it stated that the first replenishment of the restructured GEF was a first step at a minimum level, and noted that there would be a need for further replenishment of its funds as the implementation of commitments under the various agreements and objectives envisaged for the Facility proceeded

(E/1994/33/Rev.1, chap. I, para. 61). Furthermore, the Commission recommends that GEF procedures be further improved to speed up project implementation without compromising the quality of appraisal and participation. It notes the fact that GEF procedures are being reviewed.

13. The Commission stresses the need for the fulfilment of the financial commitments contained in Agenda 21. The Commission encourages the mobilization of domestic financial resources, inter alia, through the use of economic instruments and policy reforms in both developed and developing countries and the establishment of national environmental funds. It emphasizes that these measures should not be seen as a substitute for the needed increased international financial flows from all sources, including ODA, but that both channels of financing should supplement and mutually reinforce each other.

14. The Commission's review of the use of economic instruments in developed countries, countries with economies in transition and developing countries demonstrates clearly that - depending on their specific conditions - they have in varying degrees attempted to achieve a less distortionary tax system by introducing environmental taxes. In addition, valuable experience is being gained in the use of the various other economic instruments. The Commission emphasizes that future discussions on economic instruments should explore ways and means of overcoming obstacles to their implementation in developed countries, developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Particular attention should be paid to specific country situations and the phasing out of environmentally unfriendly practices, as well as to problems of capacity-building in developing countries and distributional problems.

15. The Commission underscores the importance of strengthening national capacities and capabilities in the use of economic instruments, including the elimination of environmentally unfriendly subsidies and other practices, in the context of national strategies and policies for sustainable development. It recommends that these efforts should be supported by Governments and international organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations regional commissions.

16. The Commission's review of the usefulness of the national environment funds shows that in developed countries, countries with economies in transition and developing countries, there is a great variety of different types of funds at work. In many countries these funds play an important and constructive role as effective financial mechanisms. Their role should be evaluated from the perspective of searching for optimal solutions. In this context, particular attention should be given to the advantages and disadvantages of earmarking funds for environmental expenditures.

17. The Commission will provide leadership in developing further proposals for promoting the exchange of experiences in the implementation of policy reforms for sustainable development.

18. The Commission, in its discussion of innovative mechanisms for resource mobilization, noted that the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on

Finance considered in a preliminary manner the feasibility and utility of such measures as an environmental user charge on air transport, activities implemented jointly and internationally tradeable CO_2 permits.

19. The Commission notes that the air transport of passengers and cargo is a source of environmentally damaging emissions and considers it worthwhile to examine in detail a properly designed environmental user charge on air transport if an in-depth study demonstrated its need and feasibility. The Commission recommends that such a study be undertaken in cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and other relevant bodies. It also recommends that the study address the environmental, economic, legal, administrative, and political aspects of such a mechanism, taking into account the particular needs and conditions of developing countries.

20. The Commission's discussion on internationally tradeable CO_2 permits and activities implemented jointly reflects concerns and recognition about their extreme complexity and makes it clear that work undertaken in this regard should be pursued in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, taking into account the situation of countries, particularly the developing countries, as specified in the relevant paragraphs of the Convention. In the context of its discussion, the Commission noted the outcome of the first Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in particular the launching of a pilot phase for activities implemented jointly. The Commission noted that participation in the pilot phase is voluntary and that activities implemented jointly should be compatible with and supportive of national environment and development priorities and strategies, contribute to cost-effectiveness in achieving global benefits and be conducted in a comprehensive manner covering all relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases. It notes that no credits are to be provided to any party as a result of greenhouse gas emissions reduced or sequestered during the pilot phase, and that developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition can be involved in the pilot phase on a voluntary basis.

21. The Commission emphasizes that financing the transfer of environmentally sound technology and biotechnology should be considered in the context of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21. The transfer of environmentally sound technology, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21, in accordance with chapter 34 of Agenda 21, is highlighted by the Commission as having a particularly important role to play in realizing the goals of sustainable development.

22. The Commission notes that fostering investments in environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) requires that Governments promote a favourable environment for the transfer of technology, the adoption of favourable policies for business development and the creation of a wider framework to encourage investments in the technology development process, including research, development and adaptation of technology. The particular problems of small and medium-sized enterprises were emphasized.

23. The Commission notes that financing of the transfer of ESTs can also be promoted by partnerships between the private and public sector, such as publicly funded intermediaries for EST transfer and publicly sponsored investment funds with a focus on these technologies. Venture capital funds were particularly noted. Furthermore, the Commission recommends that the need for and effectiveness of environmentally sound technology rights banks 1/ and the practical feasibility of establishing such banks should be further studied.

24. The Commission encourages the use of ESTs and such innovative private sector financing mechanisms as build-operate-transfer (BOT) schemes for promoting EST transfer, including building the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to negotiate BOT contracts.

25. In addressing the financing of biotechnology, the Commission takes note of proposals for several funding support mechanisms such as (a) the establishment of an international biosafety trust fund, (b) the establishment of an international venture capital fund for biotechnology and (c) creation of an expert volunteer corps in biotechnology. These actions require further study and consultations among interested Governments before concrete proposals can be made.

26. The Commission recognizes that many of the sources of finance, economic instruments and innovative mechanisms considered in the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.17/1995/8) are also applicable to financing the transfer of technology and biotechnology sectors. Nevertheless, detailed study would be required on the application of the "matrix approach" and countries may choose the most appropriate mix of instruments and mechanisms.

27. The Commission notes that the analytical framework presented by the matrix contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General is illustrative and may help to integrate the application of the range of financial and policy options with individual sectors and cross-sectoral activities, and could prove valuable in identifying the appropriate and most promising options, as well as complementarities, taking into account the social, economic and distributional impact of policy options and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

28. The Commission emphasizes that the "matrix approach" deserves further detailed study, including efforts at making the analysis more pragmatic and comprehensive, quantifying the potential resources generated by the use of different economic instruments and by policy reform measures. Studies should exploit the full potential of the matrix as an analytical tool to assist policy makers, including in examining the appropriate role of public and private actors, and ways and means of promoting interaction and cooperation between them. The Commission encourages Governments, United Nations organizations, international financial institutions, academic and research communities and other actors, including the private sector, to support and participate in these efforts.

29. The Commission recognizes that in pursuing studies on economic instruments, innovative mechanisms and the "matrix approach", full consideration should be given to the concerns of developing countries stated above, including the

mobilization of resource flows, and to promoting national capacities and capabilities, taking into account the social, economic and distributional impacts of policy options and keeping in mind the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

30. The Commission expresses its appreciation of the inter-sessional work that has been undertaken to prepare for its deliberations on financial resources and mechanisms. It takes note in particular of the role of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance and its report (E/CN.17/1995/11).

31. The Commission invites international financial institutions and development agencies and, as far as practicable, private enterprise, research organizations and non-governmental organizations to participate in its work, including its inter-sessional work. Furthermore, the Commission will seek out valuable national experiences as case-studies, encourage informal technical group meetings and promote pilot projects in order to enhance the effectiveness of its work.

Notes

1/ Environmentally sound technology rights banks are ownership arrangements that act as a broker for acquiring patent rights to sounder technologies and make them available to countries in need of technical assistance, in particular the developing countries, on favourable terms.

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GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Changing production and consumption patterns

1. The Commission affirms that while poverty results in certain kinds of environmental stress, the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances. The Commission thus reaffirms the need to change the patterns of consumption and production that are detrimental to sustainable development. In the context of common but differentiated responsibilities in this field, the developed countries bear a special responsibility and have agreed to take the lead by taking effective measures for change in their own countries. In that context, the Commission reiterates that national authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, as appropriate, taking into account the polluter-pays principle.

2. The Commission, taking into account Agenda 21, in particular chapter 4, "Changing consumption patterns", welcomes the recent increase in activities and efforts at the local, national, and international levels aimed at changing the prevailing unsustainable production and consumption patterns. The Commission recognizes that Governments should continue to improve their decision-making so as to integrate environmental, economic and social considerations, which will involve the use of a range of different policy approaches and instruments. The Commission notes the initiative taken by the Government of Norway in hosting the Oslo Ministerial Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Production and Consumption (6-10 February 1995) and its contribution to underlining the importance of

focusing on demand-side issues as a complement to the traditional supply-side approach. The Commission also notes the inputs provided to the Oslo Conference by various sources, including the Zeist Workshop on Facilities for a Sustainable Household (23-25 January 1995), organized by the Government of the Netherlands, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Experts Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (Cambridge, 18-20 December 1994).

3. In welcoming the inter-sessional work undertaken by Governments, the Commission reaffirms the need for additional substantial efforts and real progress by States, in particular the developed countries, in changing their unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and in assisting to redress the present imbalances between industrialized and developing nations. It welcomes further contributions from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and other international organizations, such as OECD, in this area.

4. The Commission notes with concern the significant gaps in per capita income between developing and developed countries and the continuing current imbalances in the global patterns of consumption and production. The Commission notes with concern that the growing recognition of the need to address patterns of production and consumption has not yet been matched by a full understanding of the implications of such patterns on economic, social and environmental conditions at the local, national and global levels. In order to most effectively design and implement public policies consistent with the earth's carrying capacity, more needs to be known about the role of current and projected consumption and production patterns in relation to environmental quality, economic growth and population dynamics. Thus, sustainability, including equity concerns, should continue to be addressed by Governments, the Commission, and other fora in their deliberations on how changing production and consumption patterns will affect environmental, social and economic conditions in and among countries at all levels of development.

5. The Commission urges Governments at all levels, business and industry, and consumers to intensify efforts at reducing the energy and material intensities of production and consumption, through improving energy efficiency, taking energy-saving measures, technological innovations and transfer, increased waste recovery, reusing and recycling of materials. The Commission stresses that all countries have, and should exploit opportunities for further improving efficiency in resource consumption and for reducing environmentally harmful by-products of current consumption and production patterns in accordance with national priorities and international agreements, for example, by promoting the use of renewable energy sources. In this context, taking into account the particular needs and conditions of developing countries, and based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the Commission urges developed countries to intensify effort to encourage the transfer of appropriate technologies to developing countries to assist them in such efforts.

6. The Commission notes that the above-mentioned Oslo Conference, which focused on consumption and production patterns in the developed countries, highlighted the demand-side and supply-side issues as deserving of equal emphasis and referred to the life-cycle approach to assessing the environmental,

social and economic impacts associated with unsustainable production and consumption patterns. To this end, the Commission emphasizes the responsibility shared by all stakeholders in society. Governments should provide an overall framework, including the regulations, economic incentives and infrastructure required to create the necessary conditions and facilities for business, industry and households to move toward sustainable production and consumption patterns. Business and industry in developed countries should fulfil their responsibility for managing the life-cycle impact of the goods and services that they supply, and are encouraged to provide information on the environmental and health effects arising from the production and consumption of their products. Households, particularly in developed countries, should adopt sustainable consumption habits and lifestyles. In this regard, public awareness campaigns, education and community-based voluntary action could contribute to fostering changes in lifestyles.

7. The Commission reaffirms that Governments themselves also play a role in consumption, particularly in countries where the public sector plays a large role in the economy and can have a considerable influence on both corporate decisions and public perceptions. Governments should therefore review the purchasing policies of their agencies and departments so that they may improve, where possible, the environmental content of government procurement policies, without prejudice to international trade principles. Governments and intergovernmental organizations, through appropriate mechanisms, may exchange information and experiences consistent with national laws and regulations in the area of their procurement policies.

8. The Commission takes note of the lack of information identified in the report of the Secretary-General on changing consumption and production patterns (E/CN.17/1995/13) and other documents, and calls on Governments, international organizations, legislative bodies, research and scientific institutions, business and industry, and consumer organizations and other non-governmental organizations to join in concerted efforts to provide comprehensive information on the status, changes and projected trends in the environment, ecosystems and natural resources base at the national, regional and global levels. At the product level, while recognizing the need to reaffirm the importance of informing consumers about any environmental and health effects arising from the production and consumption of a given product, such information should not be used as a disguise for protectionist trade measures.

9. Given the long time-frame in which the interactions of economic activities and the environment take place, the Commission reiterates the need for launching medium and long-term studies to monitor and track the evolution of production and consumption patterns as well as associated environmental, social and economic impacts, both within and among nations. Such studies should cover technological innovation and transfer, economic growth and development, and demographic factors. They should produce quantifiable and measurable indicators so as to facilitate policy analysis and debate on relevant issues and trends. In undertaking these studies, attention should be paid to the various effects, including the potential trade effects and in particular the effects on developing countries and countries with economies in transition, of new measures and policy stances to be adopted in promoting sustainable production and consumption.

10. The Commission calls for the promotion of internalization of environmental costs, taking into account the polluter-pays principle, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment. In this regard, it welcomes progress made so far, including in countries with economies in transition and developing countries, in further analysing, adapting and applying various measures and policy instruments designed to internalize environmental externalities. The Commission recognizes that command-and-control measures and social and economic instruments all have their role to play in changing production and consumption patterns. Governments should take into account local and national conditions in designing and implementing such instruments. In the long run, economic and other market-based instruments are likely to be more cost-effective in bringing about sustained changes in producer and consumer behaviour. In this regard, the Commission invites Governments to consider introducing economic measures, including tax and subsidies reform designed to reduce negative environmental impacts and support employment.

11. The Commission regards natural resource accounting as a valuable tool for the comprehensive full-cost pricing of resource use, and calls upon Governments and international organizations to promote efforts aimed at integrating natural resource accounting into standard systems of national accounts. The Commission welcomes pilot projects launched by United Nations agencies in this area and urges Governments, as appropriate, to give full support to these activities.

12. The Commission recognizes the international dimensions of national efforts to change consumption and production patterns in the context of common but differentiated responsibilities. The Commission emphasizes that strengthened international cooperation in harmonizing criteria for the setting of voluntary product standards, with due regard to the specific environmental, social and economic conditions in developing producer/exporting countries, should take into account concerns about market access and the competitiveness of products and services. In this regard, the Commission calls on Governments to intensify efforts to encourage the transfer of appropriate technology.

13. The Commission also recognizes the wide scope and multiplicity of the issues related to consumption and production patterns. The Commission stresses the importance of and encourages the exchange of information at all levels on experience in changing production and consumption patterns.

14. The Commission welcomes in this regard the initiative of the Republic of Korea to organize a workshop on policy measures for changing consumption Patterns. Further reviews of country experiences might be initiated by the Commission on Sustainable Development in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions, and other international organizations.

15. Taking into account the preceding paragraphs, the Commission adopts for its future work on changing production and consumption patterns the following work programme:

A. Identifying the policy implications of projected trends in consumption and production patterns

The Commission will review periodic reports containing long-term projections of the world economy with a time horizon of up to 40 years. Such projections should cover, inter alia, resource consumption and associated environmental, social and economic impacts, with particular reference to developing countries' efforts at meeting basic needs, eradicating poverty and achieving economic growth. Such studies should, inter alia, build upon the existing work of the United Nations system and other international organizations, and should make use of global models designed to project a number of indicators on environmental stress and its impact on the environment and human health.

B. Assessing the impact on developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, of changes in consumption and production in developed countries

The Commission will review periodic reports on the economic, social and environmental impacts, particularly on developing countries, of world-wide changes in consumption and production patterns. Such reports should assess, inter alia, the additional trade opportunities to developing countries arising from the increasing demand for environmentally sound products in developed countries, as well as possible adverse impacts on exports from developing countries. The reports should also examine the prospects of increasing technology transfer through enhanced foreign-direct investment.

C. Evaluating the effectiveness of policy measures intended to change consumption and production patterns, such as command-and-control, economic and social instruments, government procurement policies and guidelines

The Commission will review reports on the effectiveness of policy measures in changing consumption and production patterns, e.g., through the internalization of environmental costs. The reports should evaluate the performance of command-and-control, social and economic instruments in country-specific situations with a view to facilitating a better understanding of the policy options that are available to policy makers in all countries.

D. Eliciting time-bound voluntary commitment from countries to make measurable progress on those sustainable development goals that have an especially high priority at the national level

The Commission will review a synthesis of national information to assess progress in fulfilling time-bound commitments by Governments concerned on a voluntary basis. In this context, the Commission urges Governments and other stakeholders to use the report of the Oslo Ministerial Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Production and Consumption, entitled "Elements for an international work programme on sustainable production and consumption", as a basis for actions and for discussion in suitable forums, and thereafter to report to the Commission on the implementation of those recommendations considered most

appropriate, in time for consideration by the Commission at its fifth session, in 1997.

E. Revision of the guidelines for consumer protection

The Commission recommends that the guidelines for consumer protection adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/148 of 9 April 1985 be expanded to include guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns.

16. The Commission urges Governments, the various organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, the secretariats of the various international conventions, and major groups, particularly local authorities, business and industry, to undertake specific elements of the Commission's work programme on changing production and consumption patterns. The Commission stresses the importance of exchanging country experiences. The Commission also notes with appreciation ongoing OECD work on sustainable production and consumption, and encourages OECD to submit the results of its work in this area to the Commission as soon as possible. The Commission recommends the convening of an expert meeting on sustainable production and consumption patterns, with the widest possible participation and hosted by interested Governments, to be held before its next substantive session with a view to collecting information, ideas and suggestions for the follow-up of this work.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Draft provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Cross-sectoral issues, with particular reference to the critical elements of sustainability (Agenda 21, chaps. 2-5).

4. Financial resources and mechanisms (Agenda 21, chap. 33).

5. Education, science and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, with particular reference to Agenda 21, chapters 34, 36 and 37.

6. Review of sectoral clusters:

   (a) Chapter 9 (Atmosphere) and chapter 17 (Oceans and all kinds of seas);

   (b) Progress report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;

   (c) Progress report on the implementation of the decisions made by the Commission at its second and third sessions.

7. Progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

8. Other matters.

9. High-level meeting.

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10. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fourth session.